

## Montana Transportation Commission

January 2, 2007

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The Montana Transportation Commission met via conference call on January 2, 2007. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Howlett at 10:00 am with the following participants:

Bill Kennedy, Commission Chair (District 5)  
Rick Griffith, Commissioner (District 2)  
Kevin Howlett, Commissioner (District 1)  
Tim Reardon, MDT Legal Counsel  
Jim Lynch, MDT Director  
Jim Currie, Deputy Director  
Sandra Straehal, Planning Administrator  
Loran Frazier, Chief Engineer  
Lori Ryan, Commission Secretary

Director Lynch presented information regarding the staff recommendations for the following program project on US Highway 2

*Culbertson-E to North Dakota Border*

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### Project Summary:

The recently completed US 2 / MT 16 Transportation Regional Economic Development (TRED) Study laid the regional planning groundwork for an environmental review of a proposed four-lane design along the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway in Montana. To address corridor connectivity and system continuity the initial environmental review will occur on US 2 between the junction of MT 16 in Culbertson east to the North Dakota border; with the first tier of in-depth review and development between Secondary 327 and the North Dakota border. A SAFETEA-LU earmark will be used as the federal funding source. Planned construction projects within this corridor will not be delayed or disrupted by this action.

### Staff recommendations

Staff recommends the Commission approve the addition of this project to the program.

Commissioner Howlett ask if the environmental document (super 4) reached any further west than the N.D. to Culbertson and was the earmark sufficient to cover costs? Director Lynch explained the TRED Study and current earmark; we will have to seek additional earmarks to piece together additional projects.

Commissioner Howlett moved to adopt the staff recommendations and award the projects  
Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye.

The call concluded at 10:10 am.

Bill Kennedy, Chairman  
Montana Transportation Commission

Jim Lynch, Director  
Montana Department of Transportation

Lori Ryan, Secretary  
Montana Transportation Commission